

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ACCRA 04113 011553Z
ACTION MMO-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8303

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ACCRA 4113

STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AODE
SUBJ: MODE--U.S. AID STAFFING: WITHDRAWAL OF MODE CEILING
APPROVAL FOR OFFICE OF AREA AUDITOR GENERAL

REF: TOAID-A-35, MAY 27, 1977

1. REF TOAID A-35 REPORTED THAT I HAVE NOT APPROVED
MODE CEILINGS FOR AREA AUDITOR GENERAL'S OFFICE IN
ACCRA FOR FY 78 AND FY 79. MY PREDECESSOR, AMBASSADOR
BLACK, THE LAST FOREIGN SERVICE INSPECTION TEAM AND
THE INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR FOREIGN ASSISTANCE HAD ALL
RECOMMENDED EARLIER THAT THIS OFFICE BE SHIFTED ELSE-
WHERE. SINCE MY ARRIVAL IN DECEMBER, 1976 I HAVE
REACHED THE SAME CONCLUSION.

2. AS OUR BILATERAL AID PROGRAM IN GHANA CONTINUES TO
DEVELOP AND THE ECONOMIC SITUATION DETERIORATES, WE
ARE FACED WITH AN INCREASINGLY SERIOUS HOUSING
SHORTAGE FOR OUR STAFF. WE HAVE NOW REACHED THE POINT
OF HOLDING BADLY-NEEDED AID PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO
GHANA IN WASHINGTON BECAUSE WE ARE SIMPLY UNABLE TO
HOUSE THEM HERE. THE AAG STAFF ADDS NOTHING TO OUR
BILATERAL PROGRAM BUT DOES OCCUPY BADLY-NEEDED
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HOUSING, REQUIRES FULL ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND
ADDS TO THE GROWING U.S. PRESENCE HERE. AAG DEPARTURE
WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY EASE THAT SITUATION.

3. I WAS ALSO INFLUENCED STRONGLY BY THE IGA REPORT
DATED MARCH 2, 1977 WHICH INDICATED, INTER ALIA, THE
SUBSTANTIAL SAVINGS TO THE U.S. TAXPAYER BY RELOCATING

THE REGIONAL AUDIT OFFICES TO WASHINGTON. IN THE
LIGHT OF THOSE PERSUASIVE ARGUMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS,
I FELT I COULD NOT FULFILL MY RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER
MODE BY ACQUIESCING IN AAG'S CONTINUED PRESENCE HERE.
IT IS FOR ALL THESE REASONS THAT I WITHHELD MY
APPROVAL UNDER MODE FOR THIS OFFICE IN FY 78 AND 79.

4. SINCE THAT DECISION WAS TAKEN, I HAVE SEEN AID'S
RESPONSE TO THE IGA REPORT (CONTAINED IN MR. NOOTER'S
MAY 10 MEMORANDUM TO INSPECTOR GENERAL SHAW). IT IS
APPARENT FROM THIS REBUTTAL THAT THERE ARE SERIOUS
DIFFERENCES OF OPINION IN WASHINGTON ABOUT WHERE
THE AAG STAFF SHOULD BE LOCATED.

5. I URGE IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS THAT HIGH-
LEVEL ATTENTION BE GIVEN THIS LONG-PENDING PROBLEM
AND THAT THE DECISION BE MADE QUICKLY. IT IS UNFAIR
TO THE PERSONNEL INVOLVED TO KEEP THEM IN SUSPENSE.
IF THE DECISION IS MADE TO SHIFT THE OFFICE ELSEWHERE,
THE COMING SUMMER MONTHS, DURING WHICH THE NUMBER OF
AAG PERSONNEL WILL BE REDUCED BY TRANSFERS AND
RESIGNATIONS TO THREE DIRECT-HIRE AMERICANS, WOULD
APPEAR TO BE THE LOGICAL TIME TO DO SO.
SMITH

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NNN

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